

U.S.S.N. 10/066,935

In the Claims:

Please amend the claims as set forth in the following Listing of the Claims.

LISTING OF THE CLAIMS

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said composite comprises at least 50 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.
3. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said composite comprises at least 60 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.
4. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said composite comprises at least 70 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.
5. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said composite comprises at least 80 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.
6. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said nonwoven web has a basis weight of greater than 22 g/m².
7. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said nonwoven web has a basis weight from about 25 g/m² to less than 300 g/m².
8. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said nonwoven web has a basis weight of at least 55 g/m².
9. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said nonwoven web has a basis weight of at least 90 g/m².
10. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim 1 ~~44~~, wherein said nonwoven web has a basis weight of at least 100 g/m².

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11. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said nonwoven web has a density less than 0.01 g/cm^3 .

12. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said nonwoven web has a density less than 0.008 g/cm^3 .

13. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said nonwoven web has a density from about 0.002 g/cm^3 to about 0.009 g/cm^3 .

14. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said nonwoven web has a density from about 0.007 g/cm^3 to about 0.009 g/cm^3 .

15. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a saline absorption capacity under a load of 0.3 psi of at least 10 g 0.9 % saline/g composite.

16. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a saline absorption capacity under a load of 0.3 psi of at least 15 g 0.9 % saline/g composite.

17. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a saline absorption capacity under a 0.3 psi load of at least 20 g 0.9 % saline/g composite.

18. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a water absorption capacity of at least 20 g water/g composite.

19. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a water absorption capacity of at least 30 g water/g composite.

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20. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a water absorption capacity of at least 40 g water/g composite.

21. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a dry tensile strength of at least 2000 g/25.4 mm.

22. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a dry tensile strength of at least 2500 g/25.4 mm.

23. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a wet tensile strength of at least 150 g/25.4 mm.

24. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a wet tensile strength of at least 400 g/25.4 mm.

25. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said composite exhibits a wet tensile strength of at least 450 g/25.4 mm.

26. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44 further comprising a top sheet, an acquisition layer, a cellulose fiber layer, an impermeable layer or a combination thereof.

27. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said core further comprises cellulose fibers, said disposable diaper further comprising an acquisition layer, said cellulose fibers being disposed between said acquisition layer and said composite.

28. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44 further comprising an acquisition layer and an impermeable layer, said core being disposed between said acquisition layer and said impermeable layer.

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29. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44 further comprising a second nonwoven web and an acquisition layer, said acquisition layer being disposed between said core and said second nonwoven web.

30. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said superabsorbent polymer comprises the reaction product of
a polymer derived from an α - β -ethylenically unsaturated
carboxylic acid monomer, said polymer comprising neutralized carboxylic
acid groups, and
a crosslinking agent.

31. (Original) The disposable diaper of claim 30, wherein said α - β -ethylenically unsaturated carboxylic acid is selected from the group consisting of methacrylic acid, crotonic acid, maleic acid, maleic acid anhydride, itaconic acid, fumaric acid, and mixtures thereof.

32. (Original) The disposable diaper of claim 30, wherein said polymer comprises polyacrylic acid.

33. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said superabsorbent polymer remains disposed within the matrix of the high loft web when contacted with an aqueous composition.

34. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said core further comprises cellulose fibers, said composite being disposed in regions on said cellulose fibers.

35. (Currently Amended) The disposable diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein said core comprises a plurality of strips of said composite.

36. (Cancelled)

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37. (Currently Amended) An article according to the absorbent article of claim 45 ~~36~~ selected from the group consisting of feminine napkins, incontinence pads and mattress pads.

38. (Cancelled)

39. (Currently Amended) The absorbent article of claim 46 ~~38~~, wherein said nonwoven web has a density no greater than 0.023 g/cm^3 .

40. (Cancelled)

41. (Withdrawn) A method of making an absorbent article comprising:
impregnating a high loft nonwoven web with an aqueous composition comprising a superabsorbent polymer precursor and a crosslinking agent;
drying said composition to form a composite comprising from 10 % by weight to about 90 % by weight superabsorbent polymer; and
incorporating said composite in an absorbent article.

42. (Currently Amended) The diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein the fibers of said nonwoven web consist of synthetic polymer.

43. (Currently Amended) The diaper of claim ~~1~~ 44, wherein the fibers of said nonwoven web consist of synthetic polymer selected from the group consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene, polyolefin, polyamide, polyurethane, polyacrylonitrile and combinations thereof.

Please add the following new claims.

44. (New) A disposable diaper having a core that comprises a composite comprising:

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superabsorbent polymer; and
a high loft nonwoven web comprising fibers,
said nonwoven web being impregnated with said superabsorbent polymer,
said superabsorbent polymer having been formed in situ in said nonwoven web by impregnating said nonwoven web with an aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition and drying said aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition to form a superabsorbent polymer throughout the three dimensional matrix of said nonwoven web including along fibers of said nonwoven web and in the interstices of said nonwoven web,
said composite comprising from 10 % by weight to about 90 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.

45.(New) An absorbent article having a core that comprises a composite comprising:

superabsorbent polymer; and
a high loft nonwoven web comprising fibers,
said nonwoven web being impregnated with said superabsorbent polymer,
said superabsorbent polymer having been formed in situ in said nonwoven web by impregnating said nonwoven web with an aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition and drying the aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition to form a superabsorbent polymer throughout the three dimensional matrix of said nonwoven web including along fibers of said nonwoven web and in the interstices of said nonwoven web,
said composite comprising from 10 % by weight to about 90 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.

46. (New) An absorbent article having a core that comprises a composite comprising:

superabsorbent polymer; and
a nonwoven web comprising fibers and having loft and a density of no greater than 0.025 g/cm³,

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said nonwoven web being impregnated with said superabsorbent polymer,

said superabsorbent polymer having been formed in situ in said nonwoven web by impregnating said nonwoven web with an aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition and drying the aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition to form a superabsorbent polymer throughout the three dimensional matrix of said nonwoven web including along fibers of said nonwoven web and in the interstices of said nonwoven web,

said composite comprising from 10 % by weight to about 90 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.

47.(New) A composite comprising:
superabsorbent polymer; and
a high loft nonwoven web comprising fibers,
said nonwoven web being impregnated with said superabsorbent polymer,

said superabsorbent polymer having been formed in situ in said nonwoven web by impregnating said nonwoven web with an aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition and drying the aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition to form a superabsorbent polymer throughout the three dimensional matrix of said nonwoven web including along fibers of said nonwoven web and in interstices of said nonwoven web,

said composite comprising from 10 % by weight to about 90 % by weight superabsorbent polymer.

48.(New) A composite comprising;

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a melt blown high loft nonwoven web impregnated with superabsorbent polymer, said nonwoven web comprising fibers consisting of polyester, polypropylene, polyethylene and combinations thereof, said composite comprising from 10 % by weight to about 90 % by weight said superabsorbent polymer, said superabsorbent polymer having been formed in situ in said nonwoven web from an aqueous superabsorbent polymer precursor composition, said superabsorbent polymer being present throughout the three dimensional matrix of said nonwoven web including along fibers of said nonwoven web and in the interstices of said nonwoven web.